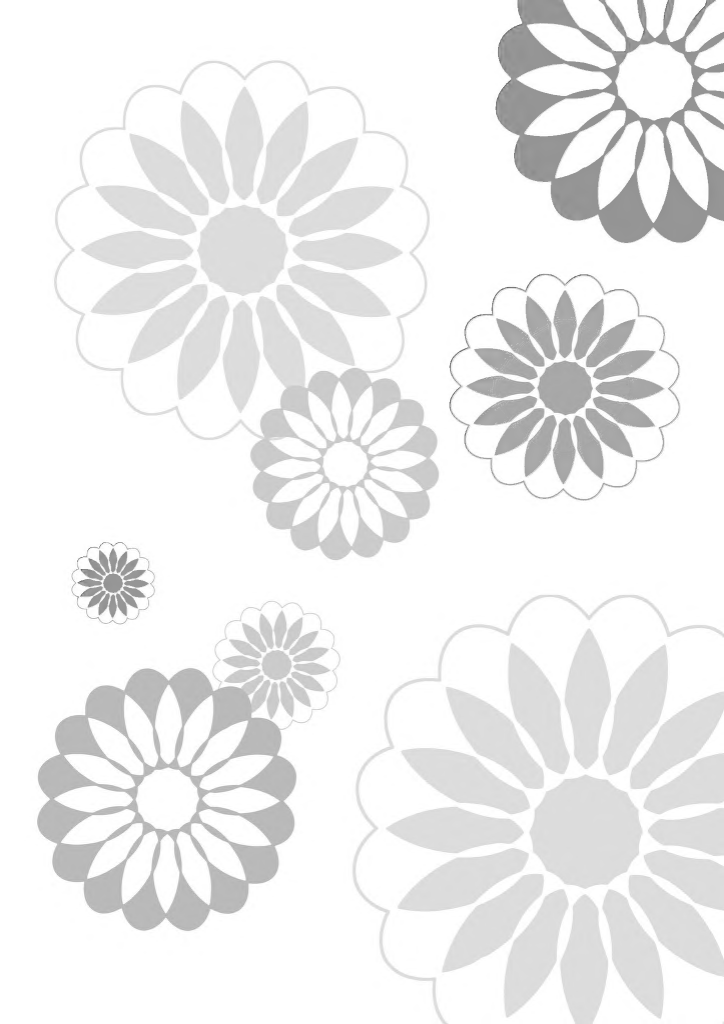
藤島康介
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA
47
ああっ女神さまっ
Oh My Goddess!



Oh My Goddess! 47

ああっ女神さまっ

STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis and Christopher Lewis

LETTERING AND TOUCHUP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA

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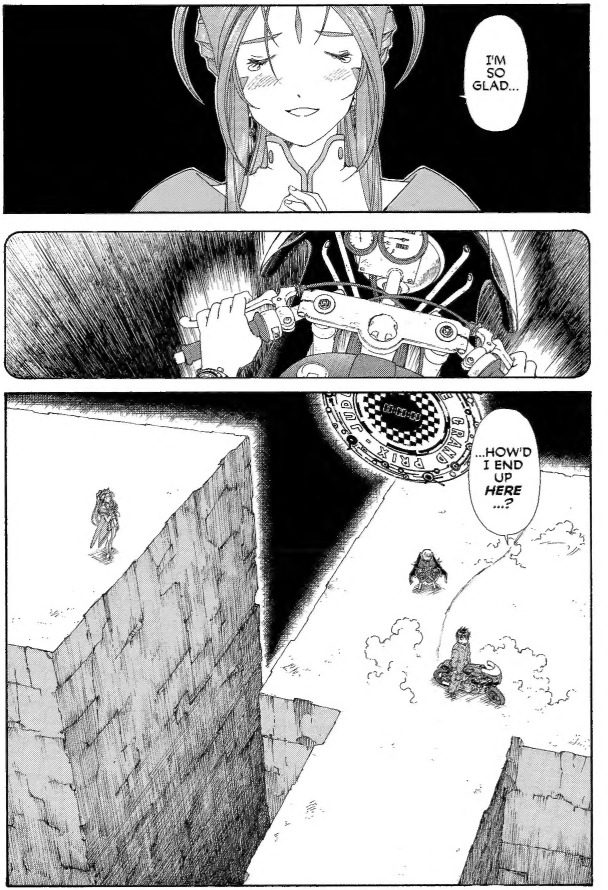
CHAPTER 297

A Magic Called Cheering

WHY?
HOW COME?


I'M SO GLAD...
...HOW'D I END UP *HERE* ...?

FWWP
FWWP
WONDERFUL!! I TRULY ADMIRE YOUR GOOD FORTUNE!!
...HUH?
I SET IT UP SO YOU'D RETURN...
...TO THE STARTING LINE WHEN YOUR TIME'S UP.
THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD, HUH?
THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD?

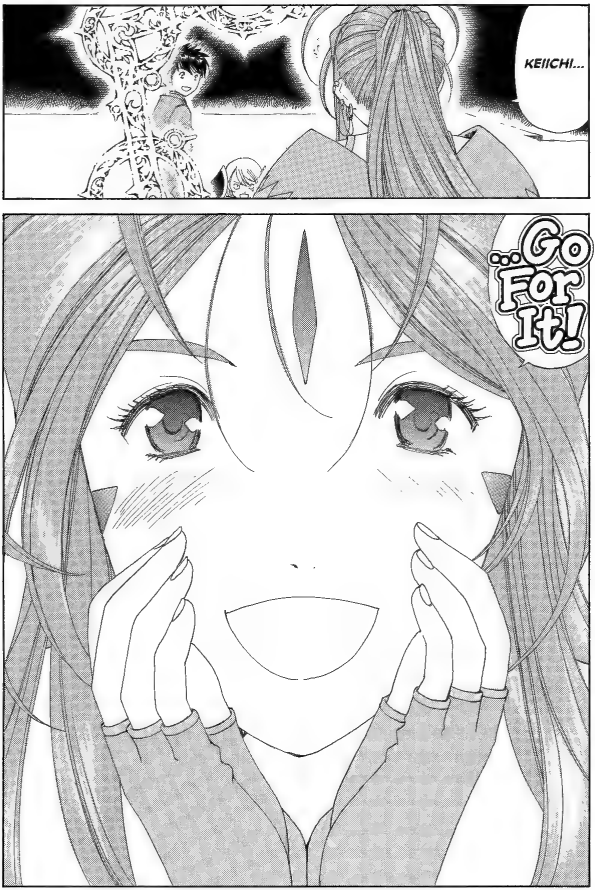
YEAH... I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD.
ALL THESE YEARS ON MY BIKE... I'VE HAD LOTS OF SCARY MOMENTS, BUT...
Shake Shake
...I'VE NEVER EXPERI-ENCED... THAT.
IT WAS TERRIFY-ING.

WHAT YOU JUST FELT...
...AND THE FEAR YOU WILL SURELY FEEL NEXT...
...STILL ISN'T THE *REAL* FEAR OF DEATH.
WHEN YOU FACE *THAT*... I THINK YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE THE STRENGTH TO SHIVER.
STILL WANT TO DO IT?

WELL...
UH...
...OF COURSE I DO!
DANG...!
WITH THOSE LEGS ...?
REALLY?

YOU'RE GOING TO TRY SOME SORT OF SPELL?
CHEER?
OKAY!
CHEER FOR ME!!
BELL-DANDY!

I DON'T THINK IT WILL WORK, BUT...
YOU'RE BLOCKED BY YOUR FATHER'S ANTI-FORCE FIELD...
SO! NOW YOU'RE TALKING BACK!
...IF YOU CAN!!
BREAK IT...


KEIICHI...
...Go For It!

WHA
...?!

...WAS SOME-THING I FELT.
THAT...
WHAT WAS... THAT...?
YEAH... ...GO AHEAD.
UH...
SO. CAN I START WHENEVER I WANT?
LET'S GO!!
OKAY!!

BRMMBB
...TRIAL TWO!!
VROOW!

...THOSE SHAKING LEGS?
AND THAT STOPPED...
I JUST TOLD HIM TO GO FOR IT.
NOTHING SPECIAL.
...DID YOU JUST DO?
WHAT...
IF I HAD TO EXPLAIN IT...
WELL...
...IT CAME FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

BUT IT SEEMS IT *DID* REACH KEIICHI.
HARD TO BELIEVE...
...
IF YOU CAN DO THAT WITHOUT A GODLY SPELL...
...AND WITHOUT DEMONIC ARTS EITHER...
...WHAT IS LEFT BUT TO CALL IT ***BLACK MAGIC?***

INDEED, YOU MAY HAVE GONE AND GIVEN HIM SOMETHING DANGEROUS.
A WITCH...
THEN I GUESS THAT MAKES ME A WITCH.
FOR-BIDDEN WINGS...

VROOO
VRAAAA
I'M RIDING BETTER THAN THE FIRST RUN...
YES!! I CAN DO THIS!!
VRMM

BUT...!
...I STILL CAN'T CUT IT *TIGHT* ENOUGH!!
IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
YOU JUST EXPERI-ENCED *FEAR.*
YOU CAN'T SIMPLY...
!
...OVER-COME IT LIKE *THAT.*
FEAR STAINS YOUR VERY *SOUL...*

VROOO
...CAN YOU PURGE IT FROM YOUR-SELF?
STILL SO FAR TO GO!!
...GO FOR IT!

I CAN'T KEEP DRIVING...
...NOT LIKE THIS!!
I KNEW IT WASN'T GONNA BE EASY.
THERE'S NO WAY THIS CAN BE DONE...
...WITHOUT SETTING MY SOUL ON FIRE!!
WHAT'S THERE TO FEAR...
...WHEN I'M BLESSED BY A GODDESS ?!

VISUALIZE IT!!
KEEP THE CONTACT PATCH...
...ON THE LINE!!
SKREEE
FORGET THE FEAR.
YOU CAN REMEMBER IT LATER!!

THIS LINE IS THE QUICKEST ROUTE TO BELLDANDY!!
GO!!
BRAMM!
HIT THE LINE!!

KEIICHI
!!

THERE!!
I JUST MIGHT MAKE IT!!
I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE.

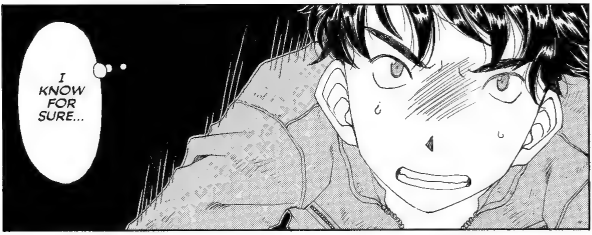
CHAPTER 298

The Countdown of Life

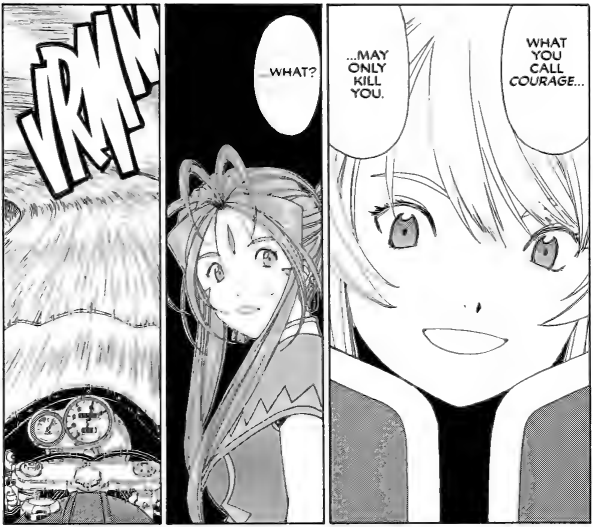
VRMM
VRMM
VROOO

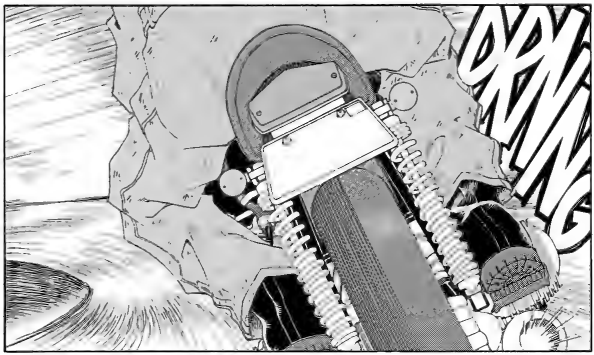
grip
IT'S STILL REALLY SCARY, BUT...
WMM
SLIDE

VROOOOM
YEEK!!
BRAKE-BRAKE-BRAKE

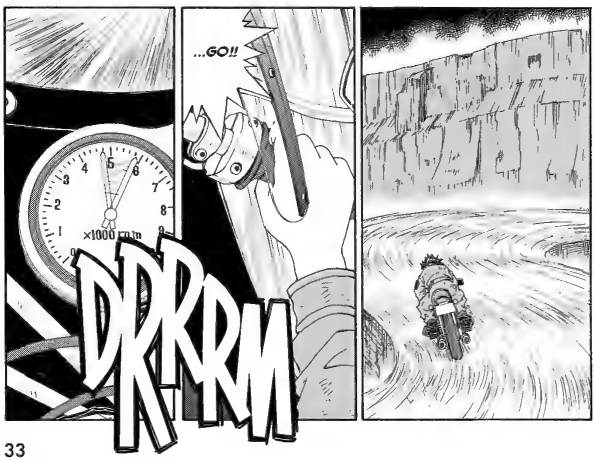

I KNOW FOR SURE...

ELATION CAN BE DANGER-OUS... YOU KNOW?
SO I'M GONNA MAKE IT!!
..THAT BELL-DANDY IS WATCHING.




DRRR

PICK UP THE PACE, AND...
I CAN DO THIS!!


...GO!!
DRRRM

WHAT THE...?!
gasp
VROOO
...A WALL!!

...SO WHAT NOW?!
I CAN ONLY TELL IT CURVES DOWN TO THE RIGHT...
THROT-TLE BACK ...?!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER!!
NO!!
VRRR

SO HERE I...
GWNGG
I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S AHEAD.. BUT I'VE GOT TO GO ANYWAY!

!!

The corkscrew is patterned after the notoriously difficult one at the Laguna Seca Raceway in northern California, an S-shaped chicane with a sharp elevation change.

SKREE
SKRRR
!!
I'VE LOST ALL TRACTION ...!
...!
grip

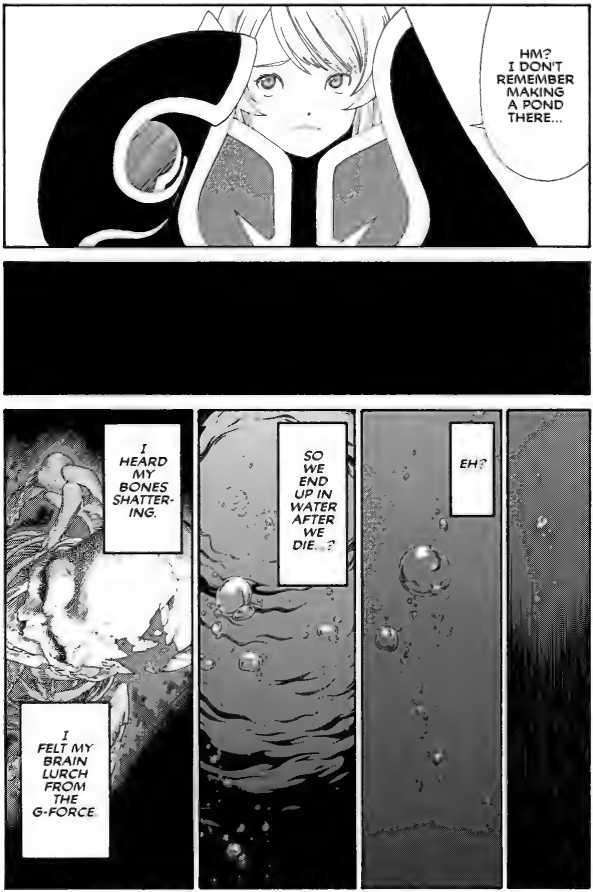
A highside is one of the most dangerous of all motorcycle accidents, where the driver is thrown over the falling bike, often with the bike hurtling after.

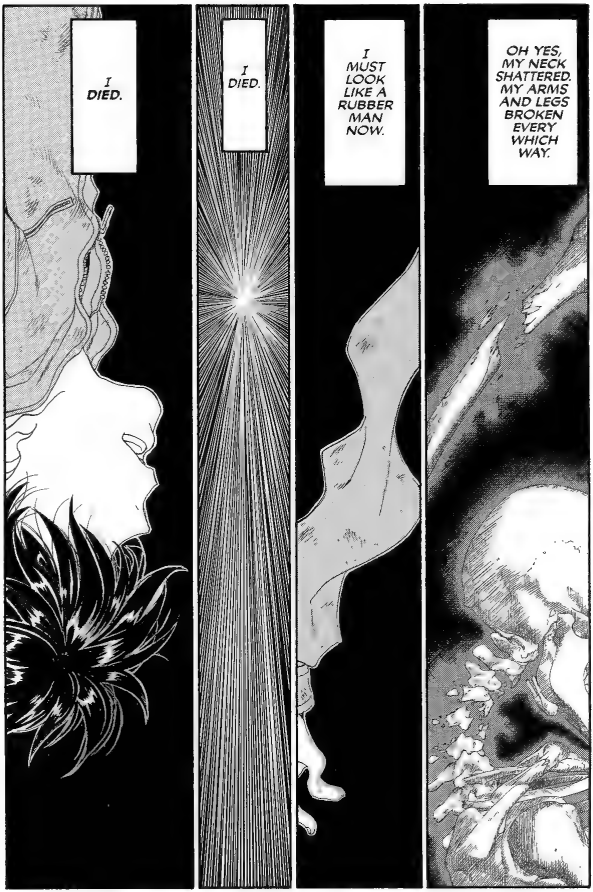
KEIGHI
!!

THIS IS...
...BAD !!
THIS TIME YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME LEFT.
THAT'S WHY I SAID...
...YOUR COURAGE COULD KILL YOU.

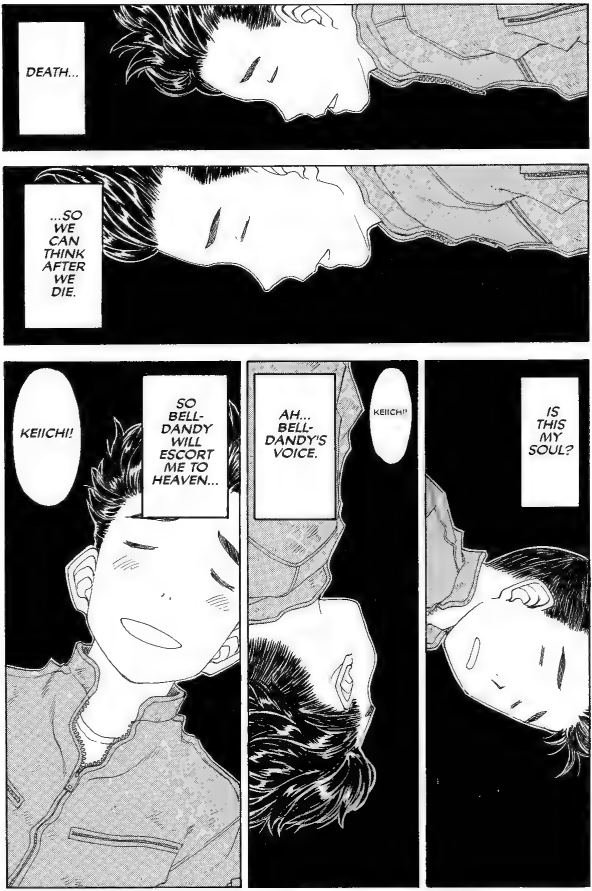
gleam

SPWOSH
KEIICHI !!

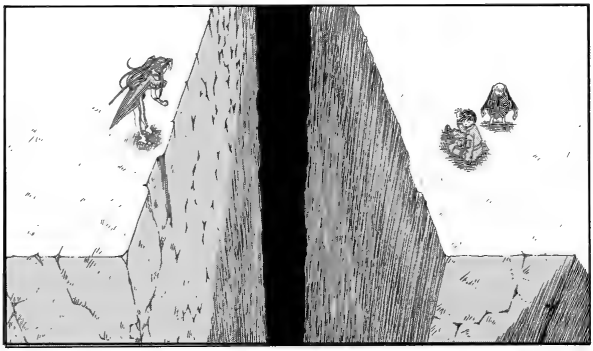

HM? I DON'T REMEMBER MAKING A POND THERE...
I HEARD MY BONES SHATTER-ING.
I FELT MY BRAIN LURCH FROM THE G-FORCE.
SO WE END UP IN WATER AFTER WE DIE...?
EH?


I DIED.
I DIED.
I MUST LOOK LIKE A RUBBER MAN NOW.
OH YES, MY NECK SHATTERED. MY ARMS AND LEGS BROKEN EVERY WHICH WAY.

...DEAD
SO I'M...

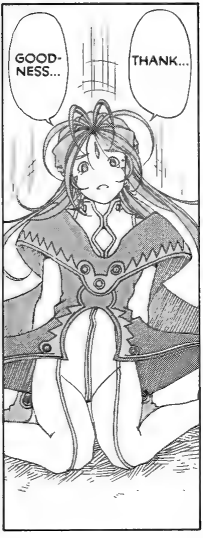

DEATH...
...SO WE CAN THINK AFTER WE DIE.
KEIICHI!!
SO BELL-DANDY WILL ESCORT ME TO HEAVEN...
AH... BELL-DANDY'S VOICE.
KEIICHI!!
IS THIS MY SOUL?

KEIICHI !!
I'M HERE!!
...HUH?



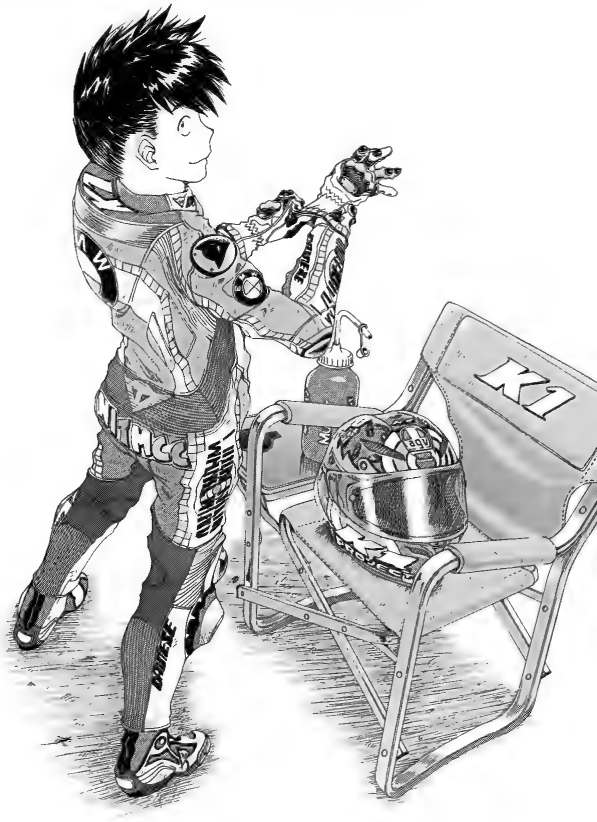
...TO BE DEAD?
HOW *DOES* IT FEEL...

SO...


GOOD-NESS...
THANK...

CHAPTER 299

Between Life and Death

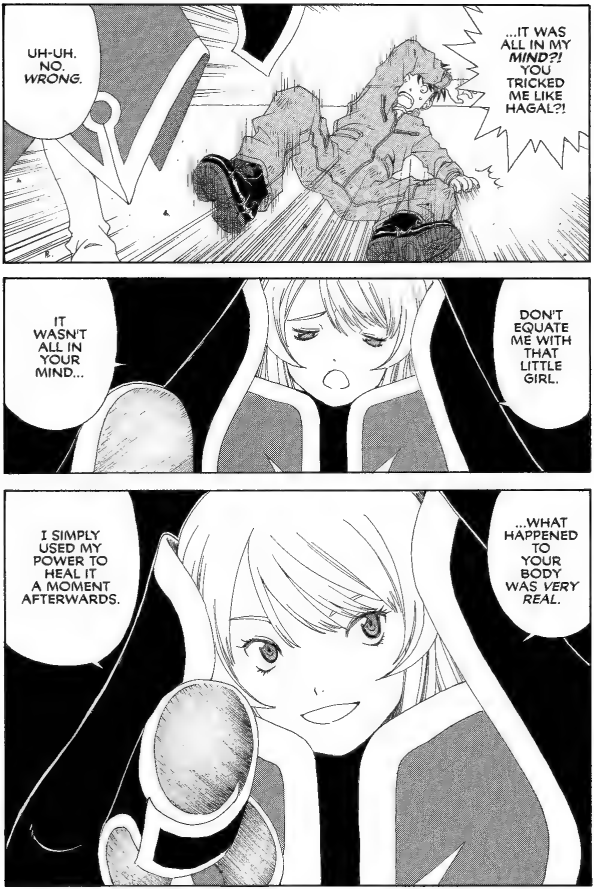


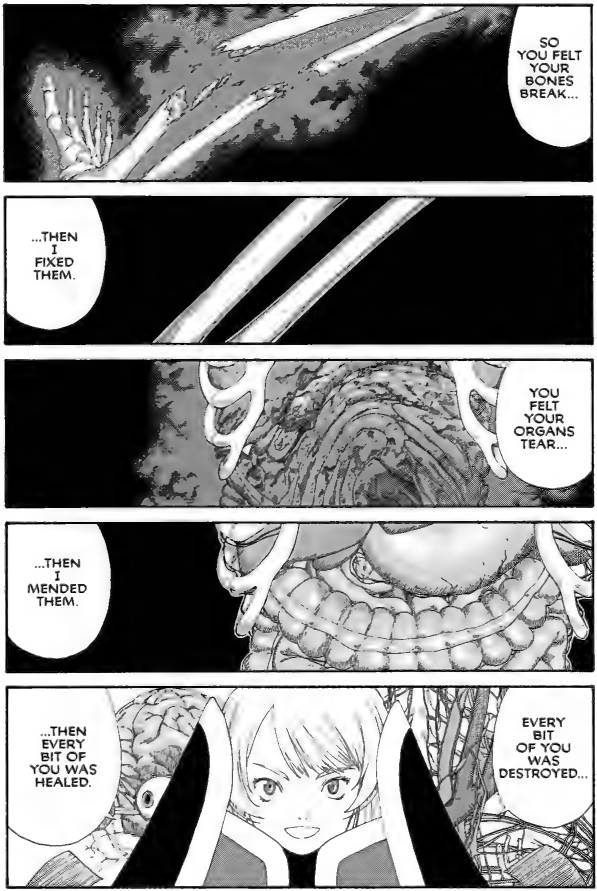
...DEAD AND BACK AGAIN?
EH?
YOU *REMEMBER*, DON'T YOU?
FEELING YOUR ENTIRE BODY COME APART...

AAAAAA
...AM I REALLY HERE?
AAA
AM I STILL HERE...?
AAAAAA
AAAA

KEIICHI...
AAAAA
...KEIICHI !!
AH...
BELL-DANDY...
...OH. RIGHT.

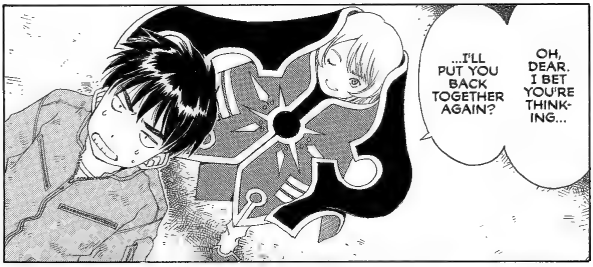
I'M BACK AT THE STARTING LINE...
BUT I DIED ...?
WAIT. SO I'M DEAD AFTER ALL?
I NEVER SAID YOU DIED...
...CAME BACK TO LIFE?
YOU DIDN'T COME BACK TO LIFE.
...I SAID YOU *FELT* THAT YOU HAD DIED.
YOU *EXPERIENCED* DYING.
BUT YOU DIDN'T *ACTUALLY* DIE.
RESURRECTIONS ARE A HASSLE, EVEN FOR ME...
YOU MEAN...

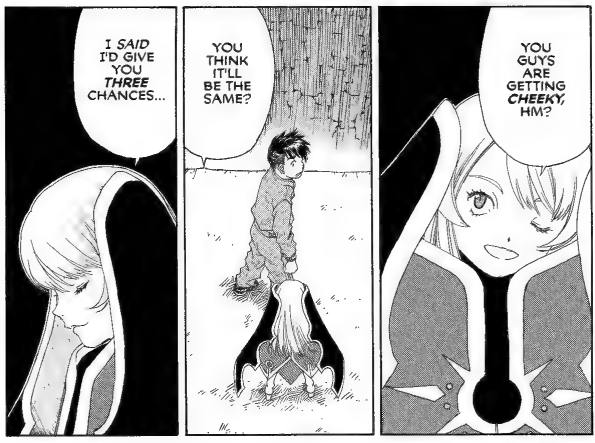

UH-UH. NO. WRONG.
...IT WAS ALL IN MY MIND?! YOU TRICKED ME LIKE HAGAL?!
IT WASN'T ALL IN YOUR MIND...
DON'T EQUATE ME WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL.
I SIMPLY USED MY POWER TO HEAL IT A MOMENT AFTERWARDS.
...WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BODY WAS VERY REAL.


SO YOU FELT YOUR BONES BREAK...
...THEN I FIXED THEM.
YOU FELT YOUR ORGANS TEAR...
...THEN I MENDED THEM.
...THEN EVERY BIT OF YOU WAS HEALED.
EVERY BIT OF YOU WAS DESTROYED...

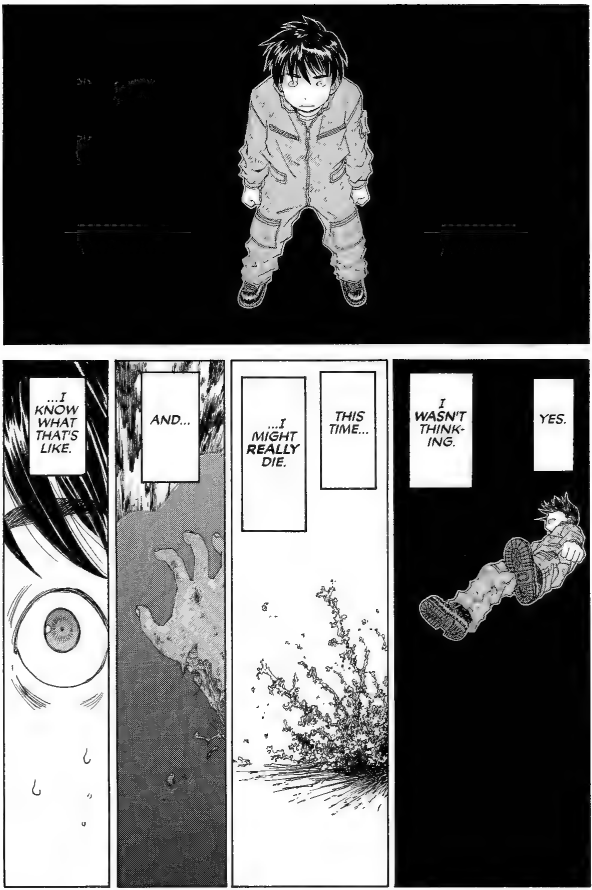
THE MEMORY WILL STAY WITH YOU...
...OF YOUR BODY RIPPED APART.
AND THAT IMAGE WILL RESONATE...
...WITH WHAT NOW LIES AHEAD FOR YOU.
THE FULL REALITY OF THIS RACE.
FOR *YOU*, IT WILL NOW BE LIKE ***DEATH ITSELF.***

...
WELL? NOW WHAT?
YOU DO HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE.
IF I WON'T ACTUALLY DIE...
...EVEN IF I FAIL...
AND BESIDES, IF I DON'T MAKE IT THIS TIME...
...I CAN'T BE WITH BELLDANDY ANYMORE...


OH, DEAR. I BET YOU'RE THINK-ING...
...I'LL PUT YOU BACK TOGETHER AGAIN?


I *SAID* I'D GIVE YOU *THREE* CHANCES...
YOU THINK IT'LL BE THE SAME?
YOU GUYS ARE GETTING *CHEEKY,* HM?

HEAL YOU.
...JUST MAYBE I WON'T.
...AND SO NEXT TIME YOU FAIL...
!!
OH, YOU DIDN'T THINK OF THAT, DID YOU...


...I KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE.
AND...
...I MIGHT REALLY DIE.
THIS TIME...
I WASN'T THINK-ING.
YES.

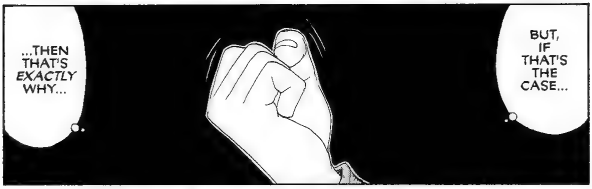
BUT...
I...
BUT...
KEIICHI WON'T GIVE UP.
I KNOW.
IN THE END, KEIICHI WILL DRIVE.
HE'LL DRIVE.

WHEN KEIICHI FELL, I WAS TERRIFIED.
MY LEGS SHOOK.
I COULDN'T BREATHE.
I HADN'T UNDERSTOOD THE FEAR...
...OF LOSING SOMEBODY TRULY PRECIOUS.

EVEN IF I CAN'T SEE HIM EVER AGAIN...
...I WANT KEIICHI TO LIVE.
BUT, JUST AS MUCH...
...I WANT TO *BE* WITH KEIICHI.
SO I CAN'T TELL HIM...
...I CAN'T TELL HIM NOT TO DRIVE.
I'M...
...SELFISH.

I'M JUST A HUMAN.
I DON'T QUALIFY AS A GODDESS.

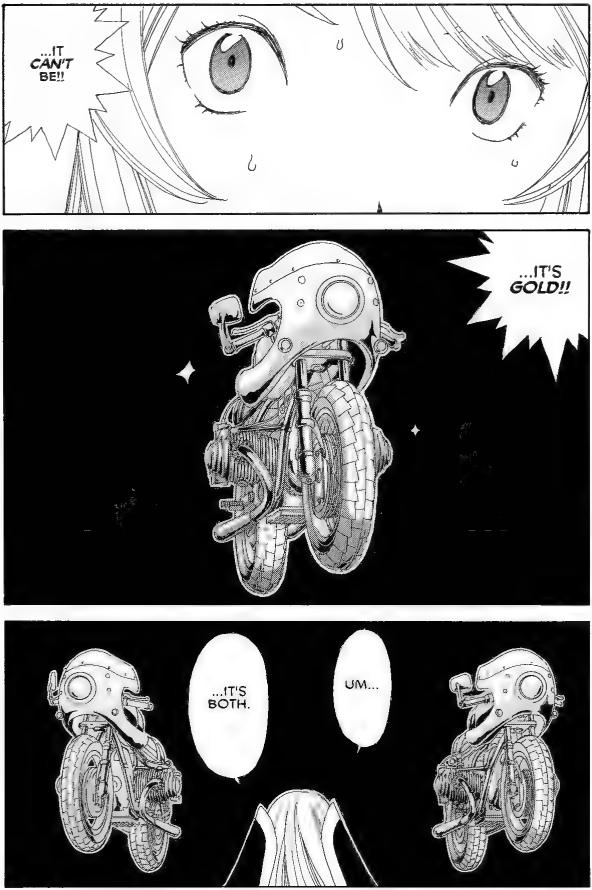
I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL POWERS...
...I DON'T BELIEVE I CAN MAKE MIRACLES.


BUT, IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...THEN THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHY...

...I'VE GOT *NO EXCUSE*...
...*FOR NOT GIVING IT ALL I'VE GOT!*

HM. LOOK AT HIM.
PSYCHED HIMSELF UP, DID HE...?
CAN'T IMAGINE HE CAN DRIVE...
...WELL, OKAY, THEN! LET'S GO FOR THE THIRD TRY...
OH, WAIT...
...WHERE'S YOUR BIKE?
MUST BE A BUG.
SORRY. I'LL CREATE ANOTHER ONE.
AH ...?

EH?
...EH?
THEEERE IT IS...
AH!
IT'S SILVER ...?!
OH...

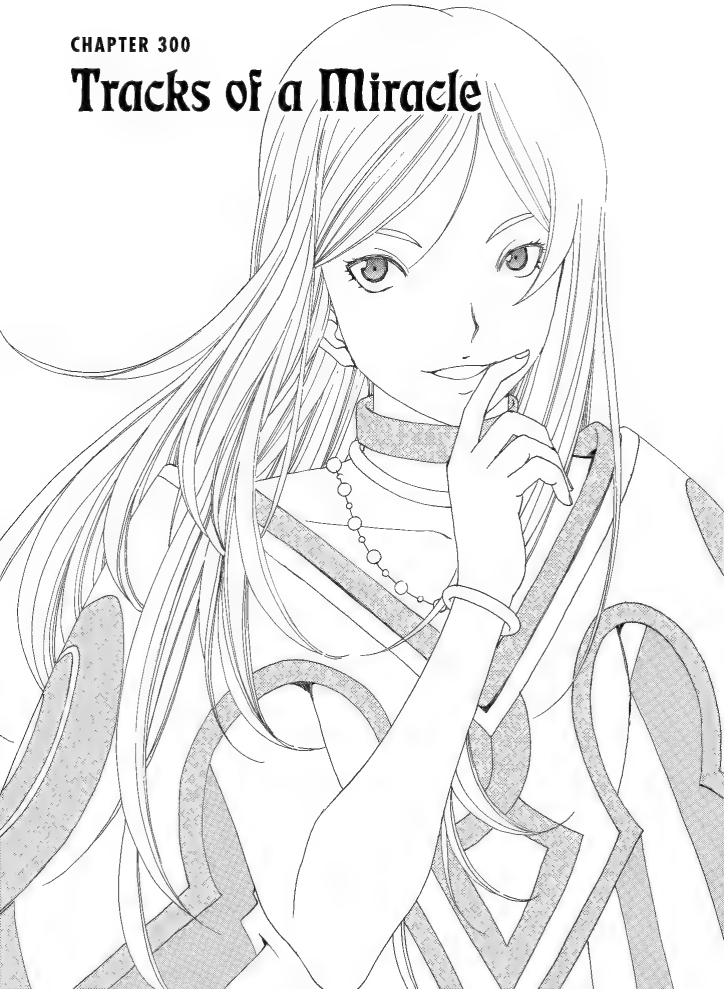

...IT CAN'T BE!!
...IT'S GOLD!!
...IT'S BOTH.
UM...

WHICH DID YOU DROP?
NO WAY...

...OR THE SILVER ONE...?
THE GOLDEN MOTOR-CYCLE...

CHAPTER 300

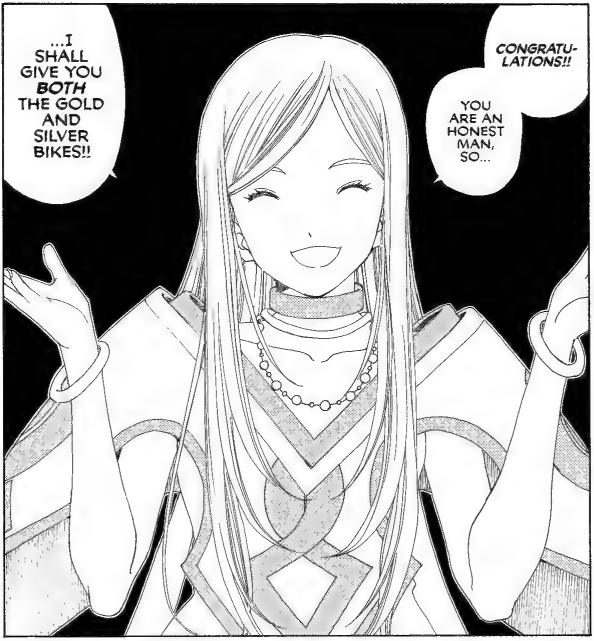
Tracks of a Miracle



WHICH DID YOU DROP ...?
GOLD...
...OR SILVER?
HUH?
AH...
WHAT?
BUT ...?!

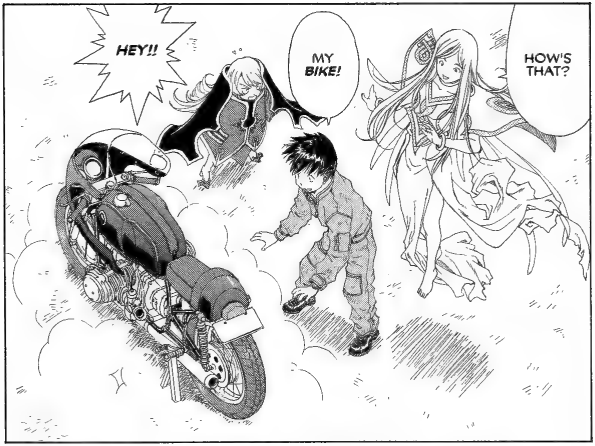
I'M WORKING. PLEASE BE QUIET.
OH...
OKAY.
SHHH...
YOU?! HOW'D YOU...?!
...WAS IT THE GOLD OR SILVER BIKE...?
I AM ASKING YOU...

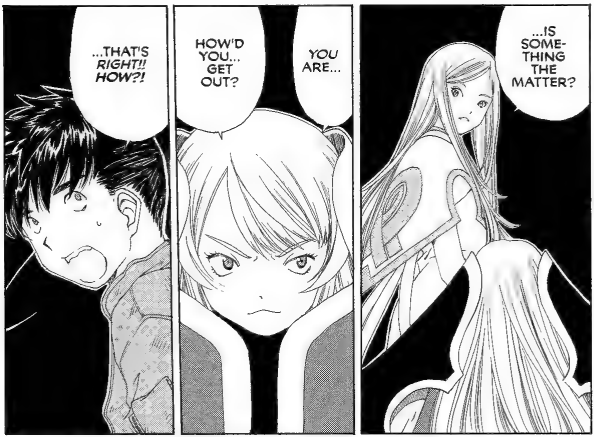
WELL, UM...
...I CAN'T DRIVE A BIKE MADE OF GOLD OR SILVER...
...SO PLEASE GIVE ME BACK MY OWN BIKE.
!?
POP
!?

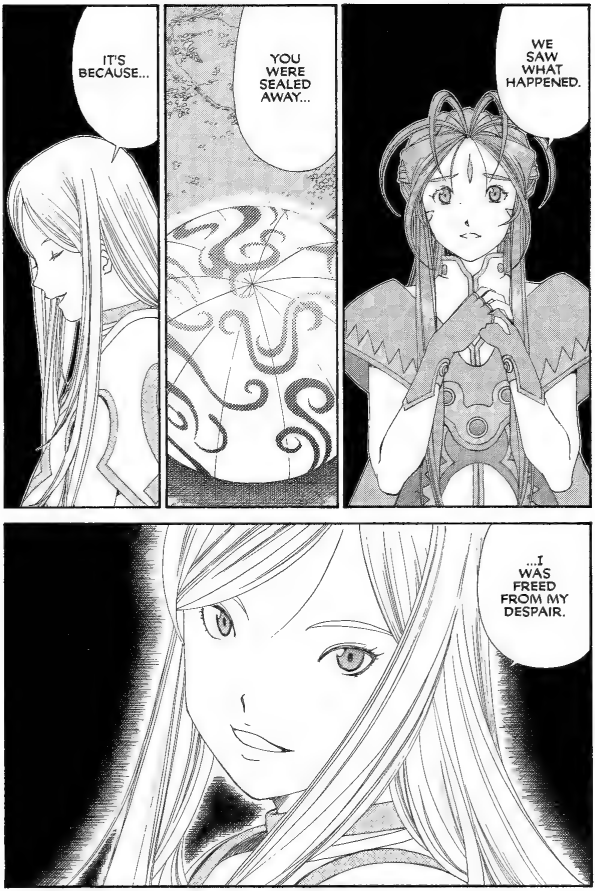

CONGRATU-LATIONS!!
YOU ARE AN HONEST MAN, SO...
...I SHALL GIVE YOU BOTH THE GOLD AND SILVER BIKES!!

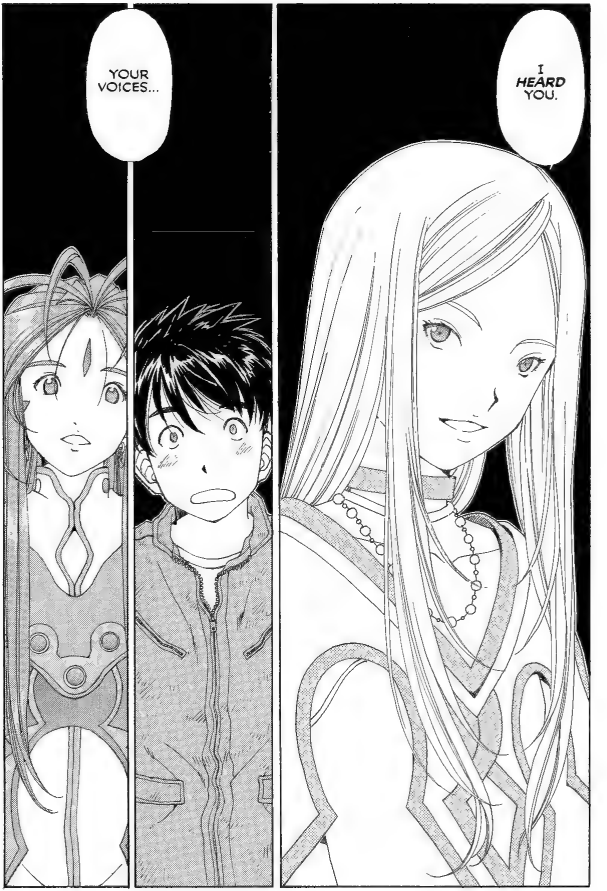
EH?! NO!!
THAT WON'T DO! PLEASE JUST GIMME A NORMAL ONE!!

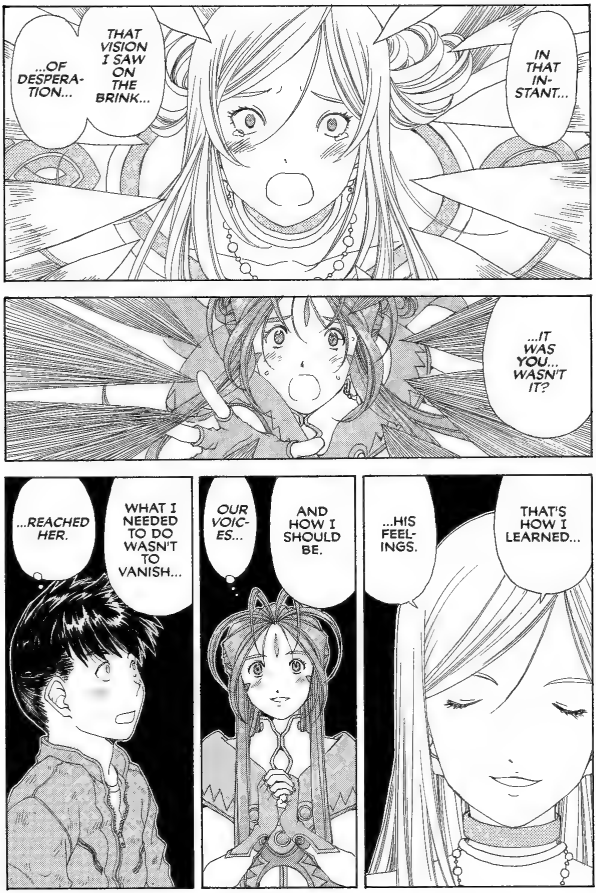
UM, HEY.
THEN, SHALL I DO SOMETHING *ELSE* FOR YOU AS A SPECIAL SERVICE...?
MY! HOW *SELFLESS*...
I REALLY DO.
...YOU *REALLY* MEAN IT?
HEY!
Sharan-raa!!
I'LL FIX IT RIGHT NOW.

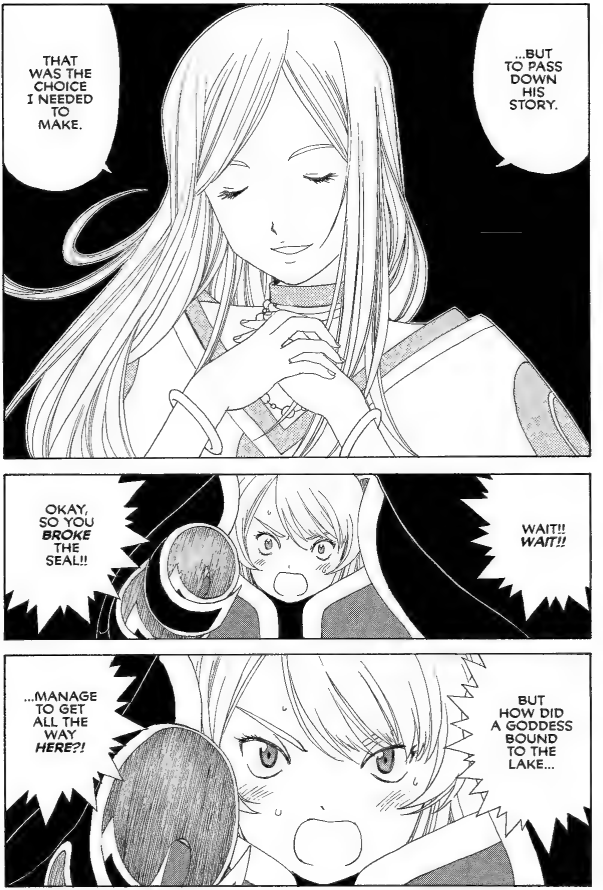

HEY!!
MY BIKE!
HOW'S THAT?


...THAT'S RIGHT!! HOW?!
HOW'D YOU... GET OUT?
YOU ARE...
...IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?

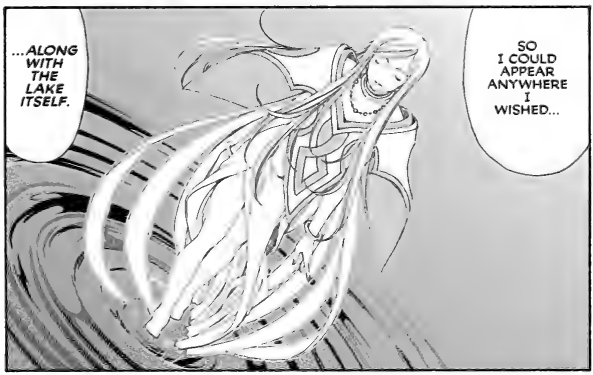

IT'S BECAUSE...
YOU WERE SEALED AWAY...
WE SAW WHAT HAPPENED.
...I WAS FREED FROM MY DESPAIR.


YOUR VOICES...
I HEARD YOU.


IN THAT IN-STANT...
THAT VISION I SAW ON THE BRINK...
...OF DESPERA-TION...
...IT WAS YOU... WASN'T IT?
THAT'S HOW I LEARNED...
...HIS FEEL-INGS.
AND HOW I SHOULD BE.
OUR VOIC-ES...
WHAT I NEEDED TO DO WASN'T TO VANISH...
...REACHED HER.


...BUT TO PASS DOWN HIS STORY.
THAT WAS THE CHOICE I NEEDED TO MAKE.
WAIT!! *WAIT!!*
OKAY, SO YOU *BROKE* THE SEAL!!
BUT HOW DID A GODDESS BOUND TO THE LAKE...
...MANAGE TO GET ALL THE WAY *HERE?!*

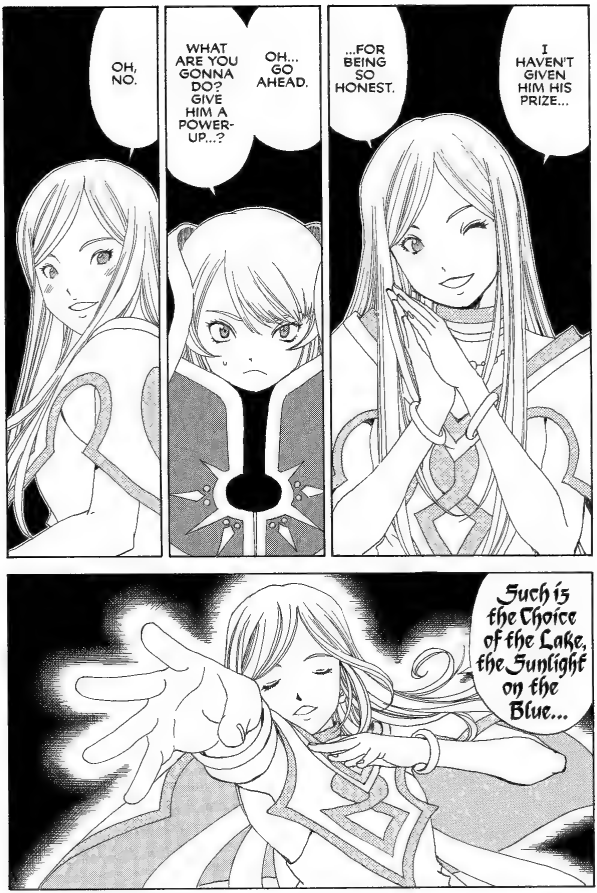
YOU ASK HOW, BUT...
...DO YOU THINK I DID *NOTHING* WHILE I WAS SEALED?
I POLISHED MY POWER...
...OF *CHOICE.*
SO I COULD CHOOSE MY *OWN* PATH, TOO.
STRONGER. AND STRONGER...


SO I COULD APPEAR ANYWHERE I WISHED...
...*ALONG WITH THE LAKE ITSELF.*

...WAY !!
NO...
YOU SAID, "NO WAY."
HUH?
...YOU SAID IT.
AH...
HUH? NO, I SAID, UH... NORWAY.

...I MIGHT'VE SAID IT, BUT...
I...
AND IT ISN'T NICE TO LIE.
YES. YOU DEFINITELY SAID, "NO WAY."
...WE HEARD IT LOUD AND CLEAR!
IT WASN'T "NORWAY," AND IT WASN'T "OH, YAY..."
YOU'VE STILL GOT A RACE TO WIN...!
WHAT ARE YOU CHEERING ABOUT?!
ALL RIGHT!!

I HAVE TO FINISH THE COURSE AFTER ALL...?
...WHAT?
I AGREE.
SHOULDN'T THEY, BELL-DANDY?
PROMISES SHOULD BE KEPT, YOU KNOW?
OF COURSE YOU DO.
NOW, KEIICHI...
RIGHT! SO LET'S GO!
AGAIN? WHAT IS IT THIS TIME...?
UM, CAN YOU WAIT A SECOND?

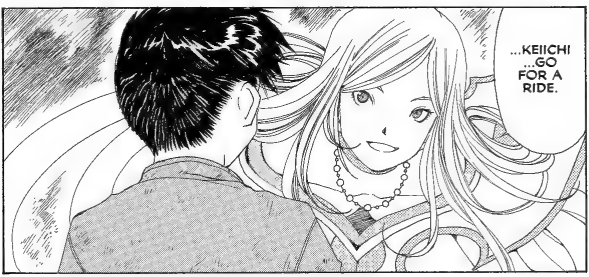

I HAVEN'T GIVEN HIM HIS PRIZE...
...FOR BEING SO HONEST.
OH... GO AHEAD.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? GIVE HIM A POWER-UP...?
OH, NO.
Such is the Choice of the Lake, the Sunlight on the Blue...

I DIDN'T ALTER THE *COURSE*.
...WHAT'S *THIS*?!
WHAT...
--!!
...BUT WINNING *THIS* WON'T BE A MIRACLE NOW... *WILL* IT?!
THE *COURSE* MAY BE THE SAME!!
...CHANGE IT BACK IMMEDIATELY !!
IN THE NAME OF THE AL-MIGHTY...

I REFUSE.
...
WHY, YOU!!
YOU WOULD DISOBEY THE MOST HIGH?!
...
FIRST OF ALL, THIS...
...IS THE RESULT OF HIS HONESTY...
...AND THUS IS MY PROPER DUTY.
UM...

AND SECOND, YOU SAY "ALMIGHTY"...
...BUT *YOU* ARE EVIDENTLY *GATE.*
LOOK... I'VE *HACKED* GATE FOR CERTAIN REASONS...
...BUT I AM *DEFINITELY* THE ALMIGHTY.
IF YOU ARE...
...THEN SHOW ME THE SIGN OF THE ALMIGHTY ON YOUR LEFT PALM.
UM...
...I CAN'T.
THEN I CAN'T RECOGNIZE YOU...
...AS THE ALMIGHTY.

AH...
GET ON WITH YOUR DUTIES!
VERY WELL!


...KEIICHI ...GO FOR A RIDE.

THIS TIME, ENJOY IT.
...
YES.
YEAH...
WHAT I'VE GOTTA *NEVER* FORGET...
...IS TO *ENJOY*.

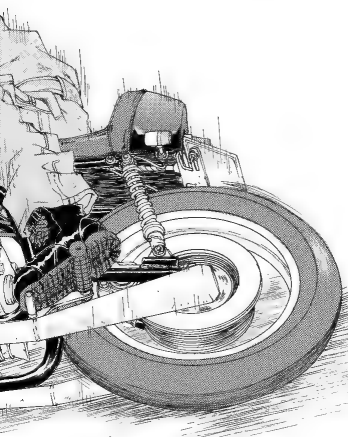
TO *ALWAYS* BE EXCITED TO RIDE!!

OH MY GODDESS!

THE BLUE SKY FLOWING BY
FEELS GREAT.
THE SMELL OF THE GREEN GRASS
THIS IS HOW MOTOR-CYCLING...

CHAPTER 301

Last Stage

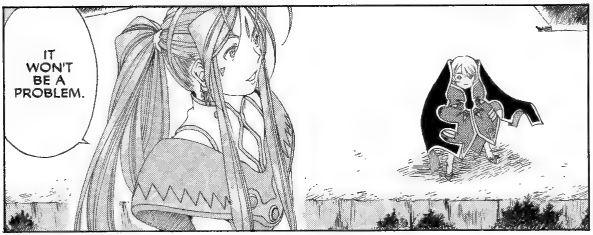


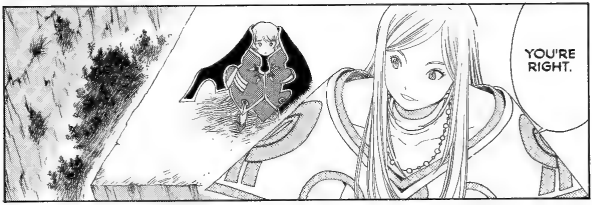
...OUGHTA
BE!!

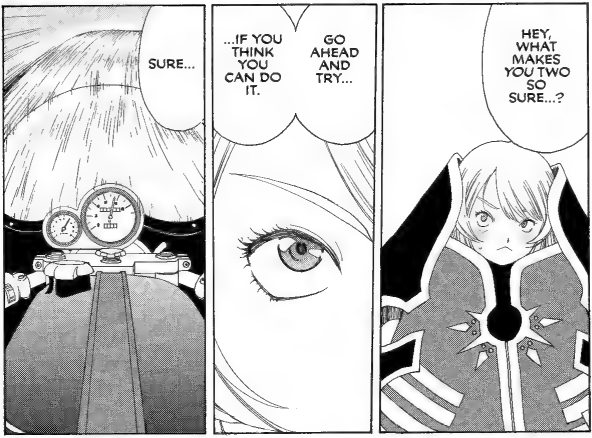
THUD
VROOO
SWISH
VWOOM
HEY, THIS COURSE...
...IS GREAT!!

WAIT FOR ME!!
BELL-DANDY !!
I DON'T THINK IT'LL BE SO EASY.
I'LL BE WAITING!
I PROMISE I'LL MAKE IT!!

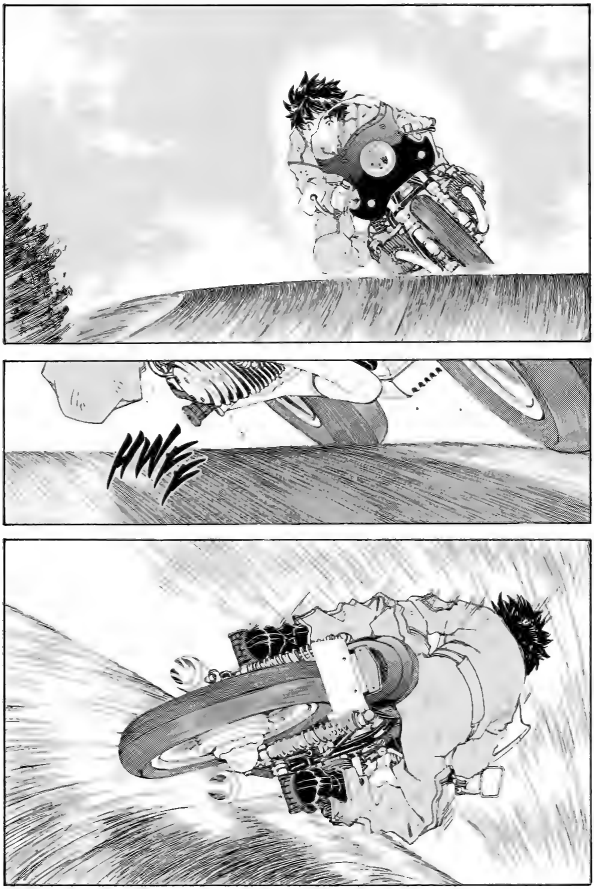
YOU KNOW WHAT LIES AHEAD, DON'T YOU...?
!!
THE CORK ...!!
WHAT'LL YOU DO?
...SCREW.


IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.


YOU'RE RIGHT.


SURE...
...IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT.
GO AHEAD AND TRY...
HEY, WHAT MAKES YOU TWO SO SURE...?

...I'LL GIVE IT A GO!!
VROOO
NNOOSH


HWE

THUDD
SKREEE
...WHAT'D I TELL YOU?

NO...
...THIS IS JUST RIGHT!!
SKREE
SKREEEEE

IF IT'S GONNA SLIDE...
...THEN *LET* IT SLIDE!!
WHAT ?!
KWWN
ZGRAAA

SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE

THAT'S OKAY.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S DONE YET.
THERE'S LOTS MORE FUN AHEAD.
chuckle

...THAT'S INTRIGUING...
INVINCIBLE, HUH.
...WILL BE *INVINCIBLE*.
WELL, IN THAT CASE, KEIICHI...
LET'S SEE HIM DO IT, THEN.
AHEAD OF THAT IS--

HA HA HA!! THIS COURSE IS GORGEOUS!!
CARBURETOR ROARING AT MY FEET!!
VROOOO

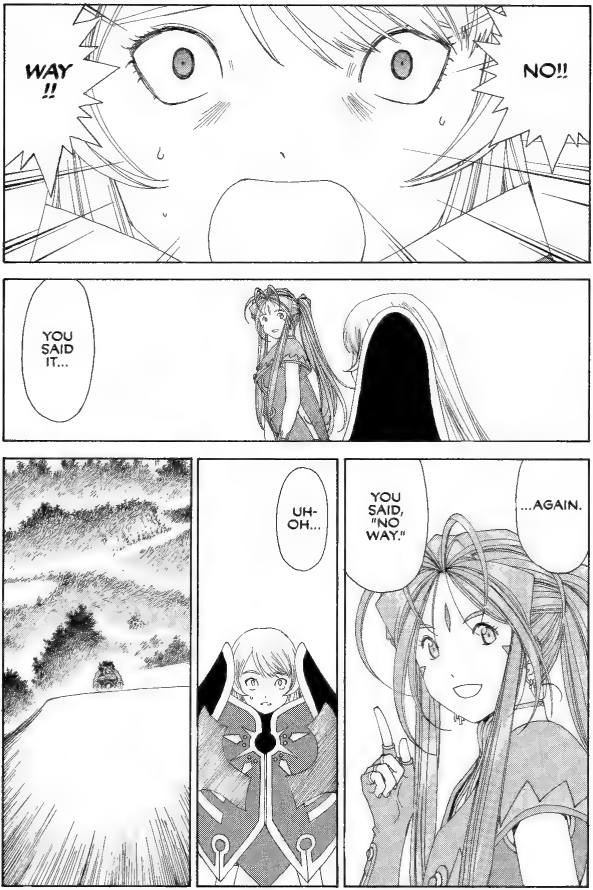
WHOA! WHAT A STRAIGHT !!
MAYBE I'LL JUMP A BIT...
GRRR
40
60
80
100

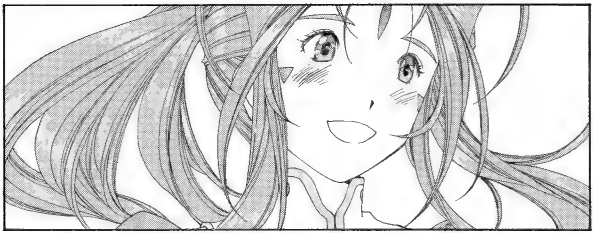
...WOW!!
...POND ?!
A...
UM...
...MADE THAT POND.
AH... I...
TIME TO TAKE A LITTLE SPLASH...
HA HA HA IS RIGHT!

HUH?
...IT'S ALL RIGHT.
BUT...
...YEAH !!
IF BRAKING WON'T DO IT...

...I'LL HAVE THAT JUMP!!
...JUST AS PLANNED !!
VROOM

THWAMM
HA HA HA!!
SKREE SKREE
woot!
tut! tut!
whoa!

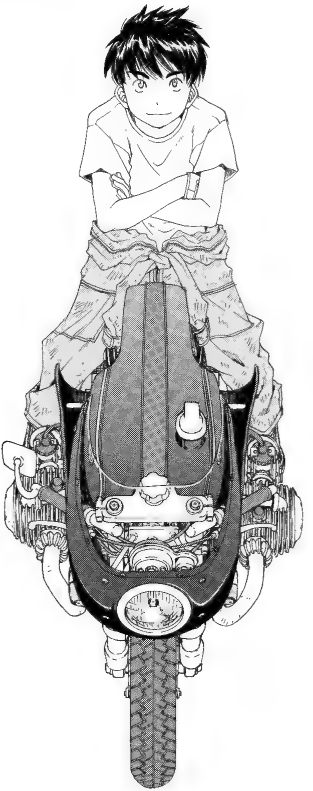

WAY
!!
NO!!
YOU SAID IT...
YOU SAID, "NO WAY."
...AGAIN.
UH-OH...



YOU BEAT ME. I GIVE UP.
EXCUSE ME...
CAN I MAKE ANOTHER RUN?
NO, SERIOUSLY. I GIVE UP.

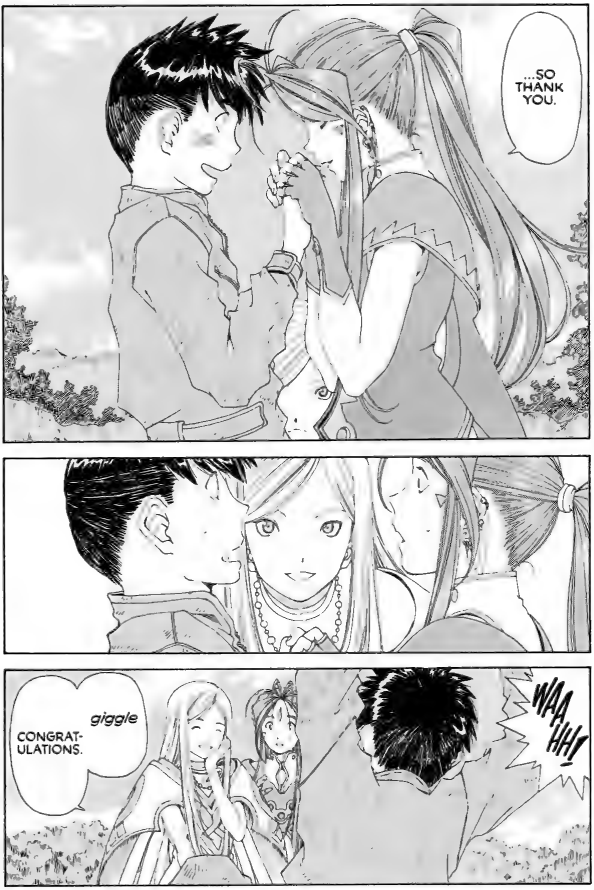
CHAPTER 302

After the Victory



00:03:07
GATE
YOU...
...RAN REALLY WELL.
tin gg
SHHH

IF YOU HADN'T BELIEVED IN ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT.
THANK YOU, BELL-DANDY.
YOU TRIED SO HARD FOR ME...
NO. I'M THE ONE THAT SHOULD THANK YOU.


...SO THANK YOU.
giggle
CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
WAAHH!

UM...
THE MIRACLE WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU...
OH, C'MON...
YOU *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND?
...THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
YOU MADE THE MIRACLE.
MIRACLES ARE MADE BY MORTALS.

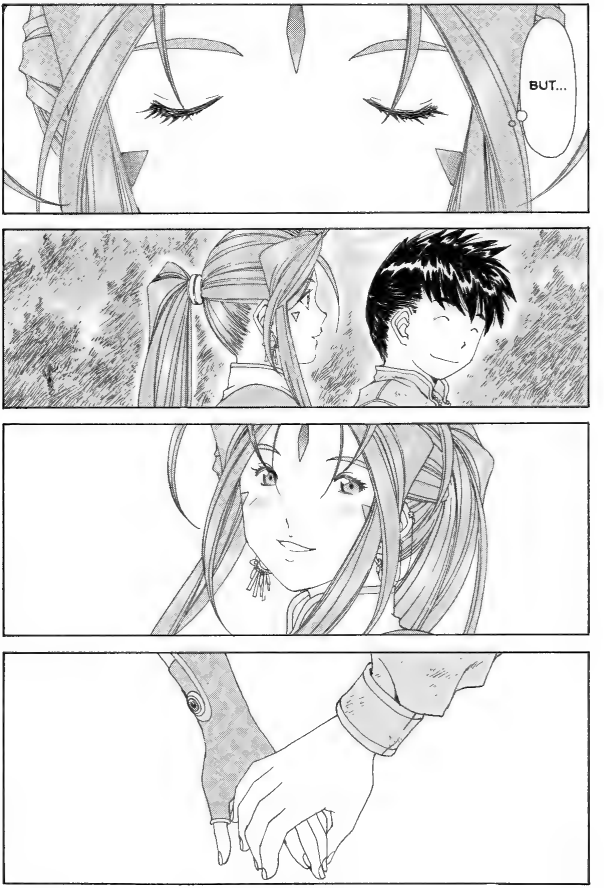
...IS THE REAL MIRACLE.
THE PERSISTENT SOUL...
AND...
OUR PLEA-SURE.
...LET ME THANK YOU, TOO.
SO...

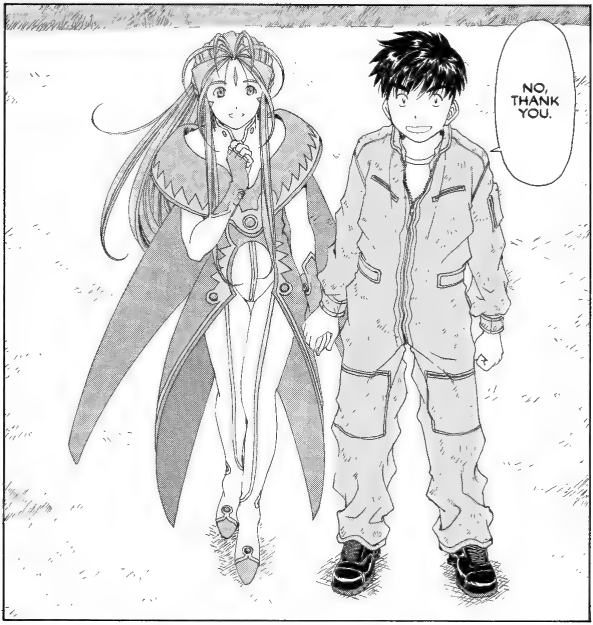
...IT'S ENOUGH.
YEAH...
GATE ...?
...THIS IS ENOUGH, ISN'T IT?
...KEIICHI MORISATO.
I SHALL PRESENT YOU WITH THIS MEDAL...

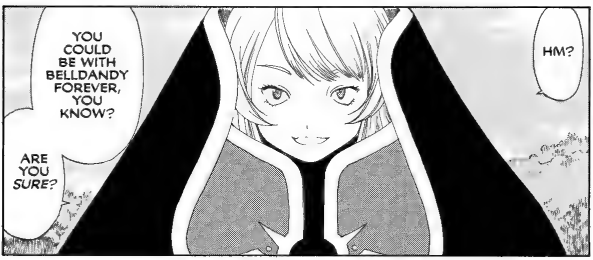
...YOUR MIRACLE.
I SAW...
I WONDER IF THIS HAS ANY MEANING ...?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
PERHAPS YOU MAY ACTU-ALLY...
...BE CAPABLE OF BECOMING ONE.
BECOME ONE...
...WHAT?

...A GOD.
WHAT ELSE?
WHY, OF COURSE...
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT...?
IS THAT POSSIBLE ...?
HUH?

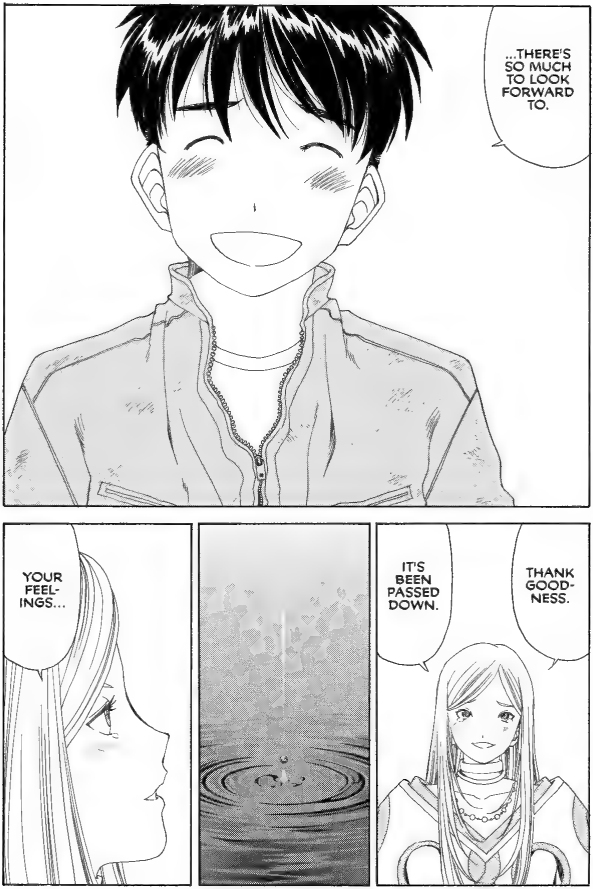
AH...
LIVING EVIDENCE.
HERE'S ONE RIGHT HERE.
IF THAT'S POSSIBLE, THEN...
BUT...
IF IT'S *POS-SIBLE*...


BUT...


NO, THANK YOU.

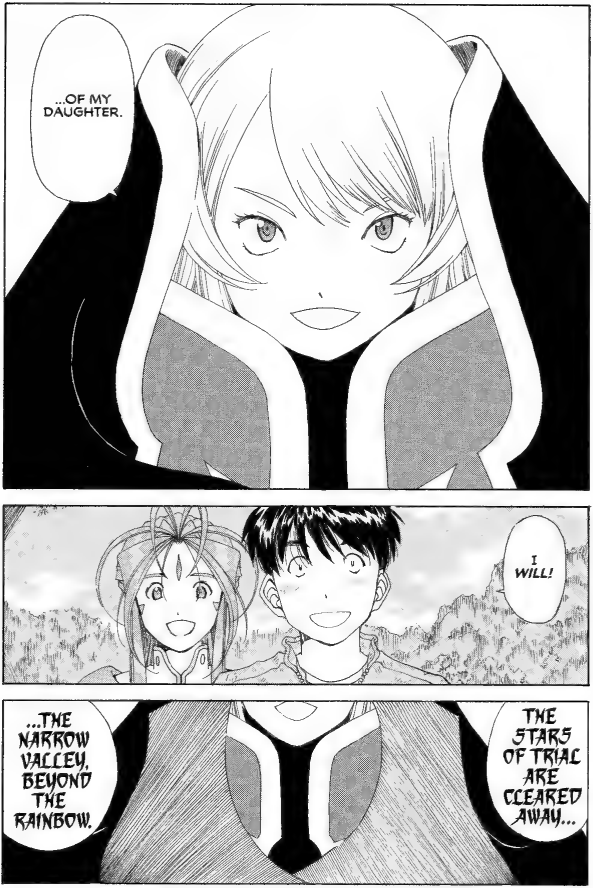

YOU COULD BE WITH BELLDANDY FOREVER, YOU KNOW?
ARE YOU *SURE?*
HM?

HONESTLY...
...THAT'S REALLY APPEAL-ING, BUT...
SINCE BELL-DANDY CAME TO LIKE...
...ME AS A HUMAN...
...I WANT TO LOVE HER AS A HUMAN, TOO.
I MEAN...
...AT THAT LAKESIDE, IN THE PAST...
WHEN I THINK...
...THAT BLISSFUL TIME MIGHT COME TO ME...

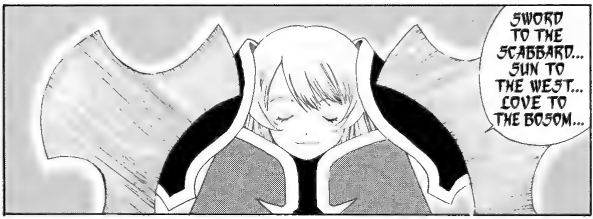

...THERE'S SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
YOUR FEEL-INGS...
IT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN.
THANK GOOD-NESS.

THEN, UNFORTU-NATELY...
IS THAT SO...
...HAVE REACHED ANOTH-ER.
...YOU PASS.
HUH...?

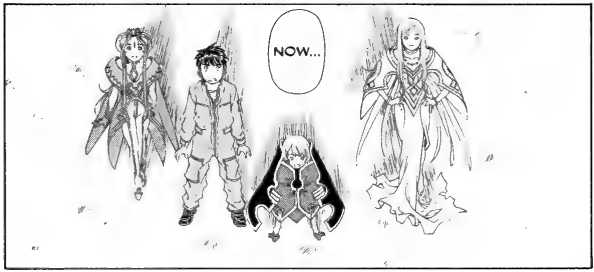
BECOMING A GOD CAN'T BE *THAT* EASY, CAN IT...?
JUST A FINAL LITTLE TEST.
HUH ...?
TAKE GOOD CARE...
YOU'RE TRULY AN UNWAVERING MAN.


..OF MY DAUGHTER.
I WILL!
...THE NARROW VALLEY, BEYOND THE RAINBOW.
THE STARS OF TRIAL ARE CLEARED AWAY...

...THE PROMISE STANDS UPON THE LAND.
THE BONDS ARE STRONG, LINKING TIME...


SWORD TO THE SCABBARD... SUN TO THE WEST... LOVE TO THE BOSOM...

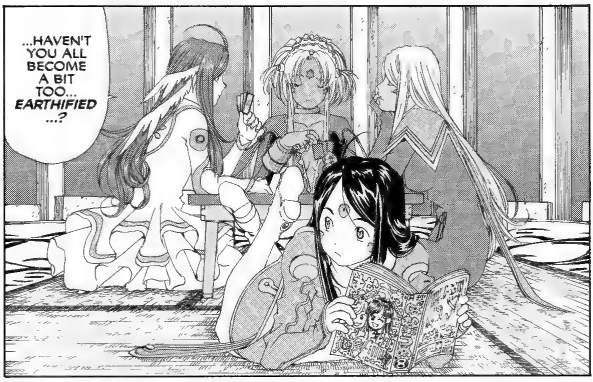
...THOSE WHO GO SHALL THEIR JOURNEYS CONTINUE.
THOSE WITH HOMES SHALL RETURN...

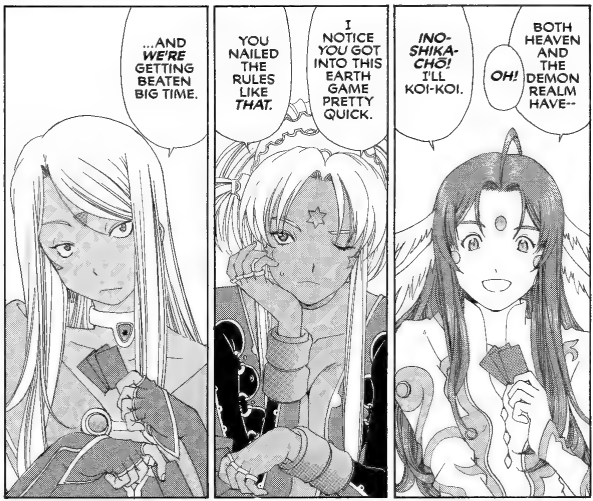

NOW...

PLACE THE MEDAL I GAVE YOU *HERE*.
THEN THE RETURN GATE WILL OPEN.
IT *DID* HAVE MEANING...

WHAT IS IT?
...CAN I ASK ONE QUES-TION?
OH...
WHY DID YOU HACK *GATE*?
YOU COULD'VE COME HERE YOURSELF, NO PROBLEM.
I'D RATHER NOT SAY THIS, BUT...
UM...
I THOUGHT YOUR STANCE WAS THAT I *AM* GATE.
HEY!
I WANTED TO ASK THAT, TOO.
AH!

...WHO?
YOU MUSTN'T MEET...
...I WANTED TO AVOID ANY CHANCE OF MEETING HER.
IN FACT, I MUSTN'T MEET HER.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
NOW, GIRLS...


...HAVEN'T YOU ALL BECOME A BIT TOO... EARTHIFIED ...?


BOTH HEAVEN AND THE DEMON REALM HAVE--
OH!
INO-SHIKA-CHŌ! I'LL KOI-KOI.
I NOTICE YOU GOT INTO THIS EARTH GAME PRETTY QUICK.
YOU NAILED THE RULES LIKE THAT.
...AND WE'RE GETTING BEATEN BIG TIME.

THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM...
I'M SURE YOU CAN WIN, TOO.
URD, YOU'RE DADDY'S DAUGHTER.
AKA-TAN! AND I KOI-KOI AGAIN.
AME-SHIKO! AND I'M OUT.
...WAIT A SECOND!
HEY.
WHAT, MY DEAR?

...AND WERE *TORN APART*, RIGHT?
YOU AND DAD *FAILED* AT THE GATE OF JUDGMENT...
...WAS I EVER *BORN?*
THEN HOW...
THAT'S *RIIIGHT.*

AHH, YOU NOTICED THE MYSTERY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
A SECRET DOOR-WAY.
A HIDDEN ART, ONCE IN A LIFETIME...
BY CASTING A CURSE UPON *MYSELF*...
...I *HACKED* THE RULES OF HEAVEN AND HELL.

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My guess is that some of you reading this attended the *Oh My Goddess!* twentieth anniversary panel at Anime Expo 2014, and I wanted to thank you very much for making it such a success. The room sat 300 people, and it was a full house. Comics artist Lea Hernandez (check out her work in *Teen Titans Go!*) was able to join us on the panel, as part of her long experience with manga in the US was working on the English adaptation of *Oh My Goddess!*

Joining us virtually via Skype was longtime *OMG!* translator Dana Lewis. The connection on her end wasn't that great (it was like the TV conversations with the Apollo astronauts—a lot of static and time delay ^_^) but she was able to at least say who her favorite goddess is (Urd) and hear a thunderous round of applause from the room for all her work over the years.

Letterer Susie Lee couldn't be there (either in person or over the Net) but she contributed a number of behind-the-scenes details about her lettering methods (a combination of hand detailing and computer work) which we discussed as part of the slide show. Finally, we were honored by a surprise: it turned out that a representative from Kodansha, *Oh My Goddess!*'s original publisher in Japan, was in the audience. She liked the panel so much that she had the home office watch the video of it!

If you missed the panel, a thoughtful fan recorded it. I apologize for my voice, appearance, and general nongoddess nature. ^_^ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_sEGFM24RA

We have a lot of letters, so let's get to them:

Hello!

Firstly let me say that *OMG!* is far and away my favorite manga. Something I literally stumbled across a few years ago while trawling the Internet for a good romance anime to watch. Finding the anime led to searching for the manga, and regretting the fact that at the time I didn't have the money to invest in purchasing the series. In the past year or so, however, between saving money for college and making sure the bills get paid (a happy and willing sacrifice on my part, better my money spent on a few volumes of an excellent manga and one of the few that have managed to capture my heart in such a manner), I've managed to purchase all of the volumes published so far, and have the next volume preordered. ^_^ Thank goodness August isn't so far away now; it will be a nice birthday present to myself to be able to read it so soon, but of course after that comes the wait for the next volume. -_- Thank goodness I'm a patient person, ha ha. After all, love, like most good things, takes time to develop, yes? Though perhaps I can urge you to publish the next volume faster? ^_^ There is still a little empty space on the top shelf of my bookcase that needs filling.

Regarding publishing, I was wondering if your translators (any of them would be nice, but those who've worked on *OMG!* would be wonderful) would have any advice for a future translator? As a message sent in by one Valerie Peters, and published in volume 17, stated, *OMG!* has had a rather profound influence on her life. An influence that wouldn't

have been possible without the work and dedication of the translators involved. This is, in part, why I wish to become a translator (specifically for Japanese).

All the world has a story to tell and knowing just one language is terribly limiting for being able to hear, or in this case read, them all. There is so much we are able to learn from other cultures, and I think that for Japan at least, manga is one of the ways we are able to do that. Most of us lack the time, money, or energy to take a trip to our country of choice, or to spend a year studying there, but nearly everyone can find a little money and a little time to sit down and read a book, especially if it is something they are passionate about. I think that the more we learn about how all the many cultures in the world are different, we also learn more about how we are the same, that underneath the differences in language, culture, and appearance, we are all people. We all feel the same feelings, even though the words we use to describe them may be different. *OMG!* in particular is a wonderful example of this; Belldandy's warm and caring attitude for everyone she meets is something I think we could all learn from.

Thank you for taking the time to read this somewhat long e-mail. I could wax eloquent for much longer if I wished but then no one would probably read it, ha ha. Thank you in advance to any of the translators that may be kind enough to respond to my request for advice. I shall endure the difficulties and challenges of learning Japanese and persevere to achieve my dream. Perhaps one day, if it is still ongoing (and not too presumptuous of me), I shall be able to see my own name in the credits for a volume of *OMG!*, or at least this letter published in a volume. ^_^

Brandon Tinajero
via e-mail

That day has come! I'm going to see if we can get the translators of *Oh My Goddess!* to write something for *OMG!* Vol. 48, and perhaps give some translation advice; Dana in particular has been a translator since the 1980s, and I imagine she would have a lot so say (if she has time, of course—I'm grateful enough that she's been able to keep up with *OMG!* for all these years).

Since we're discussing translations, this seems like a good moment to relate a note from *Oh My Goddess!*'s cotranslator, Christopher Lewis: the goddess of the lake's cry of "SHARANRAA!" from page 80, panel 4, is from a somewhat-obscure but later influential early magical-girl anime TV series, *Majokko Megu-chan*, which originally aired in Japan during 1974–75. It was never released in English, but was on TV in a number of other countries, notably Italy, where it aired in the 1980s under the name *Bia—la sfida della magia* (Bia—the challenge of magic). And that card game on pages 145–147? It's called *koi-koi* (meaning "come on") and is played with *hanfuda* ("flower cards").

Dear *Oh My Goddess!* Team,

I'm a recent fan of this series—I started reading it only a couple of years ago, but it quickly became my favorite, and no other series has claimed that spot. I doubt that will change. The great characters created by Fujishima-sensei, along with his signature humor and the series' heart, immediately struck a chord with me, and I found myself rapidly catching up with the *tankobon* volumes.

I discovered this series during a rather turbulent time of my life, and grabbing the next volume at my local comic book store became something I eagerly anticipated each week. Besides providing a welcome respite and escape from my troubles, at times the messages in the stories gave me resolution to keep plugging away, having faith that things would get better. And at times, they did. Even now, when things look dark, I can count on Belldandy and Keiichi having the right words to keep me going.

When I learned that the series was coming to an end—and already had in Japan by the time of this writing—I was struck by mixed emotions. My initial reaction was to be dismayed that my favorite manga was coming to an end, but after some reflection, I realized that this series wouldn't be complete without a fulfilling ending—something I'm confident that Fujishima-sensei can create.

I want to thank him for sharing the gift of his creativity and his wonderful characters with the world, and for giving us such a great story to enjoy for a long time to come. It's said that there's a spark of the divine in those who create, and Fujishima-sensei has definitely proven this with his goddesses. I also want to thank the Dark Horse Manga team, for bringing *Oh My Goddess!* here to one of its many, many grateful fans. Here's looking forward to his next work!

Leon Glaser
via e-mail

Thank you very much! "It's said that there's a spark of the divine in those who create"—well put, and I think Belldandy would agree with the sentiment. I think this part of the story especially asks us to think about the aspects of divinity, and how righteousness might not always mean doing the right thing by human standards.

The term Tyr uses to refer to himself in this volume is *shushin*, which is sometimes translated as "All-Father." Anyone who's seen Anthony Hopkins casting out Chris Hemsworth in *Thor* knows that "All-Father" is a title associated with Odin, but it's interesting that many scholars feel the ancestors of the Norse people originally revered Tyr, rather than Odin, as the greatest among the gods. Tyr is still remembered in the name of the day of the week, Tuesday, which is derived from "Tyr's Day" (just as Wednesday is from "Woden's Day,"—Woden being another name for Wotan or Odin).

Belldandy is a goddess, but she always uses her power to help others, defend people, and above all, make peace—never to bully or push people around, much less demand they worship her. It's amusing how we're not allowed to view directly the form of Belldandy's father, Tyr, but instead must look upon this stern patriarch through the form of the cute Gate. It's the manga equivalent of Moses and the burning bush.

Hello Sir or Ma'am,

I have been a reader of *Oh My Goddess!* for over fifteen years. I was first turned on to the series by the anime. After I saw that first episode I said to myself, "Where has this been all my life?!" I read the issues published by Dark Horse, and was blown away by the art style, the characters, and the stories. *Oh My Goddess!* was the first comic to really turn me on to manga. In fact, it was *Oh My Goddess!* which turned me on to comics in the first place; American comics never really sparked my interest.

Now that it's ending I would like to thank Fujishima for his manga. It has been an inspiration to me in some of the art I've drawn, and the stories have captivated me, as well. How the characters have solved their problems has always surprised me. Their answers to problems were usually not what I thought, and their creativity amazed me. Their vibrancy has kept me coming back for years. And their personalities have kept my interest, too.

From Keiichi's smarts, to Urd's brashness, and Peorth's style (which is my favorite), the characters have felt different to me. Though a couple of characters, such as Belldandy, looked like other heroines from other manga, they still had a unique look or feeling to them. It's how Belldandy moved, or how Skuld reacted to Keiichi, that felt real. Also it's the blend of humor, action, and romance, that I've loved. It's how Keiichi and Belldandy had a childish romance, or how demons and gods fought for control of the desires of people, that was great. Fujishima and company could keep the balance, and keep it fresh almost each issue.

So thank you, Fujishima, for making a manga that could be understood and loved by so many people.

Sincerely,
Jason Anderson
via e-mail

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11
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5,6,7,8
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Oh My Goddess!
OH MY GODDESS! POSTCARD
The Great Goddess Giveaway!

I like Peorth, too. She was the first goddess we met that wasn't part of Belldandy's family, so she gave us a different background as a character. At the same time, the fact that Peorth (unlike Urd or Skuld) had the same rank and job as Belldandy allowed us to compare them as individuals. Also, I think you need a sort of rival character like Peorth (or Sayoko, whom I also like) to shake things up on occasion.

And finally for this volume, here's a piece of *OMG!* fan art that Maggie Mei Lewis was kind enough to send us:

"Belldandy Calling Her Angel"
By
Maggie Mei Lewis

Well, as much as I dislike saying it, the next volume of *Oh My Goddess!*, vol. 48, is the final one, so it's also the last chance for your letters and fan art to appear in the book!

But even if you've never written in, the most important part is that you've been reading all these years (since 1994!) One way we would like to thank you all for supporting Dark Horse's release of *Oh My Goddess!* is by giving away eleven *OMG!* items, as you can see in the picture on the previous page. Eight of them are in Japanese, and are from *Oh My Goddess!*'s original publisher, Kodansha. Three of them are in English, of which two are from Dark Horse and one is from Anime Works. All of them are special in their own way . . . and that's why we'd like to give them away to you, the *Oh My Goddess!* readers.

First, let's explain how to get them! We will give away one item each to eleven different readers. To get a chance to be one of the eleven, mail us a postcard. This postcard will serve as your entry for the giveaway. Address the postcard to:

The Great Goddess Giveaway!
c/o Letters to the Enchantress
Dark Horse Comics
10956 SE Main St.
Milwaukie, OR 97222

In the space for the message on the postcard (on most postcards, this space is on the left side of the card), please be sure to write your own name and address (otherwise, if you win, we won't know who to send the item to) along with any other message you might have. ^_^ Please send only one postcard per person. By the way, this postcard is just to enter the giveaway—if you have letters or fan art for vol. 48, you can still send them the normal way, either via e-mail or to the address above.

The deadline for us to receive your postcard is Monday, June 15, 2015. That evening, we will put all the postcards we received in a box, shake the box to mix them around, and then draw out eleven of the postcards. The first one drawn will get prize #1, the second prize #2, and so on, all the way to prize #11. We'll then mail the prizes to the eleven lucky winners! Let's talk a little about the prizes themselves . . .

Prize #1: *Oh My Goddess! Title Page Perfect Data File.* This Japanese-language, landscape-oriented booklet was only available in the June 2006 issue of *Afternoon* magazine, where each chapter of *Oh My Goddess!* was originally serialized in Japan, starting with chapter 1 in the November 1988 issue (that's right, *OMG!* began when Ronald Reagan was president!) and ending with chapter 308 in the June 2014 issue. The somewhat inaccurately named ^_^ *Oh My Goddess! Title Page Perfect Data File,* as mentioned, came out in June 2006, so therefore it only covers two-thirds of

OMG!'s run. But it's an interesting historical artifact for the *OMG!* fan, because this booklet contains reproductions of the title pages of the first 199 chapters of *OMG!*, exactly as they had appeared in each issue of the magazine. (Chapter 200's title page had a blank space where you were invited to paste in a small photocopy of the title page yourself . . . It was in that very issue of *Afternoon*. 8D)

These title pages used the same artwork as the chapter title pages you see in the Dark Horse volumes of *OMG!*, but *Title Page Perfect Data File* shows you that in the original magazines, they had extra text laid over them, including not only the series logo and creator's name, but captions meant to grab the reader's notice about what's going to happen in that month's chapter (after all, an issue of *Afternoon* is sometimes 1,000 pages long; it has many other manga competing for people's attention), plus information like notices of when the next graphic novel (*tankobon*) is coming out, or, in later years, notices about *OMG!* anime releases or websites. All of this extra text that appeared on the title pages when those *Oh My Goddess!* chapters first ran in *Afternoon* magazine gets removed by Kodansha when they collect them into graphic novels.

As the Dark Horse edition of *Oh My Goddess!* is based on the Japanese graphic novels, our chapter title pages don't have the extra text either. But that's okay, because that text was written specifically as a promo device to appear in *Afternoon* magazine. By the way, this kind of chapter title text isn't something special to *Oh My Goddess!*—every manga in *Afternoon* magazine has it, and it's a common device in other manga magazines and with other publishers as well; it's also standard practice to remove it for the *tankobon*. But instead of trying to explain it, maybe I should just show you an image from *Title Page Perfect Data File*, because it illustrates the things you can learn from this sort of historical document. Here's the title page of the very first chapter of *Oh My Goddess!* as it appeared in the November 1988 issue of *Afternoon*. You can compare it to how it looks on pages 4–5 of *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 1 and see how all that promo text is gone. But the boxes and arrows (which I added just for this letters column ^_^) show something about the series that even *I* didn't know . . .

So. The Japanese title of this manga (as you can see on the left side of the front cover) is ああっ女神さまっ, *Aa Megamisama*. There's a little hiragana mark after each word that ordinarily stands for the sound *tsu* but, when it's used like this, serves as a kind of short exclamation. *Megami* means "goddess" and *sama* is a very respectful way to address someone (whereas in English, terms like "Mr." or "Ms." are placed before a name or title, in Japanese they are placed after it). The first official releases in English related to the series were both in 1994, when AnimEigo released the original five-episode anime OAVs, and Dark Horse (of course ^_^) began to release the manga. Both releases used the title *Oh My Goddess!* I've always thought that was a good decision from several angles (Toren Smith, who brought *Oh My Goddess!* to Dark Horse, discusses the reasons in p. 181–183 of vol. 2) but many fans will be aware that the English phrase "Ah! My Goddess" is often used alongside the Japanese title, ああっ女神さまっ, in Japan itself, and later releases of the anime, such as the 2000 movie or 2005–06 TV series, were released in English by various companies (Geneon and Media Blasters in North America, Madman in Australia and New Zealand, MVM and Manga Entertainment in the United Kingdom) under that title.

In a sense it doesn't matter ^_^ because most fans know that *Oh My Goddess!* and *Ah! My Goddess* are two different names for the same thing, but I had never realized until I went through *Title Page Perfect Data File* that the original English title for *Oh My Goddess!* in Japan was . . . *Oh! My Goddess*. It stayed that way in chapter 2, and then, for some unknown reason, switched to *Ah! My Goddess* in chapter 3, as you can see in the image. Just to make things a little more complicated, according to this booklet, it switched again in chapter 7 to just plain *Ah My Goddess*, and stayed that way until chapter 70 in June 1994, when *Ah! My Goddess* started being used again, which is how it has remained in Japan ever since.

Well, that's enough about prize #1. ^_^ Prize #2 is a book of Goddess graph paper, just the thing for playing AD&D with the sisters. I imagine if Urd was the DM, you'd be facing a lot of alchemy, whereas Skuld would go in for one of those *Tomb of Horrors*–type scenarios, laden with traps. Belldandy would find a way to resolve all random encounters peacefully.

Prize #3 is (ironically enough) a set of postcards. This *Oh My Goddess!* postcard set was originally released by Dark Horse in 1998, so it's kind of rare now. Prize #4 is also from 1998: a Japanese CD-ROM that contains a weekly B&W *OMG!* illustration calendar. As older software, it may not play on all computers. But as you may know, calendar patterns repeat over time, so one year may have days that fall on the exact same days of the week as a different year in the past. And it just so happens that 2015 uses the same calendar as 1998, so perhaps your system will receive it as a kindred spirit!

Prizes #5–#8 are Japanese promotional DVDs for the *Oh My Goddess!* anime. Japanese DVDs are in a different region than those in North America (that's only true for regular DVDs like these; Japanese Blu-ray discs are in the same region as North America), so they may not be usable in every DVD player. If it doesn't work in your player, however, a Japanese DVD can often be played on your computer using software such as VLC Media Player, which is a free and open-source program.

Prize #9 is another Japanese CD-ROM (which comes in a hinged box) from 1997. It's a very nice collection of Fujishima's *OMG!* illustrations (including penciled versions, which you rarely see) with musical accompaniment from the Goddess Family Club, the singing trio made up of the women who do the goddess sisters' voices in Japan, Kikuko Inoue (Belldandy), Yumi Touma (Urd), and Aya Hisakawa (Skuld).

Prize #10 is an issue of the *Oh My Goddess!* comic book (from back when Dark Horse still published it as a comic book) in May 1999 that introduced Peorth. What makes it special, of course, you can see on the front cover—it's autographed by Kosuke Fujishima himself!

And finally, prize #11 is the complete DVD box set of the first (2005) *Ah! My Goddess* (if you want to be technical ^_^) anime TV series. This is the English-release version (it contains an English dub, or the Japanese audio with subtitles if you prefer) from the Anime Works label, and has 6 discs containing 26 episodes.

Well, good luck, everybody, and we'll see you in vol. 48!

—CGH

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 47

THE PENULTIMATE VOLUME . . .

Having already lost the first of his three tries to win the race decreed by Belldandy's father Tyr, Keiichi must face on the second round the terror of his own mortality, as the physical danger of the course makes brutally clear the difference between god and human! But if Keiichi were an ordinary mortal, he wouldn't have already won the love of the extraordinary goddess Belldandy . . .

Winner of the thirty-third Kodansha Manga Award, *Oh My Goddess!* is the longest-running manga title in English!

DARK HORSE MANGA
DarkHorse.com